STARMAN AND PLASTIC MAN
STARRING IN
ADVENTURE COMICS
NO. 470 APR. 40¢ ALL NEW!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
CAN PLASTIC MAN EVADE THE KILLER CALLED THE TROWEL?
ANDRU & GIORDANO
SPECIAL!
CONCLUDING THE ASTONISHING ORIGIN OF THE SENSATIONAL STARMAN TM
C-300

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corgi

HE WAS A RUMOR TO IMPERIAL SECURITY--AN ELUSIVE ENEMY TO THOSE WHO WOULD DISTURB THE MILLENNIAL PEACE--AND UNKNOWN TO ALL, THIS MOST DANGEROUS MAN IN THE GALAXY HID A PERPETUAL DEATH SENTENCE UNDER THE MASK OF ...
STARMAN
"TO BE BORN AN HEIR TO THE CROWN WAS A GREAT HONOR... AND AN EVEN GREATER CURSE! FOR WHEN MY SISTER WAS CHOSEN TO ASCEND TO THE IMPERIAL THRONE, THE ANCIENT LAWS DEMANDED THAT I BE CAST OUT...
"... AND IN THE INSTANT I TUMBLED FROM THE STAR-CRUISER'S PORT, I SCREAMED INTO SOUNDLESS SPACE!
"FOR I KNEW I HAD SPLIT-SECONDS BEFORE MY BLOOD BEGAN TO BOIL IN THE VACUUM OF THE VOID."
PAUL LEVITZ
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PENCILLER / DESIGNER
ROMEO TANGHAL
INKER / EMBELLISHER
Gaspar
LETTERER
ADRIENNE
COLORIST
LEN WEIN
EDITOR
TO DIE A-BORING...
THE ORIGIN of STARMAN... REVEALED AT LAST!!

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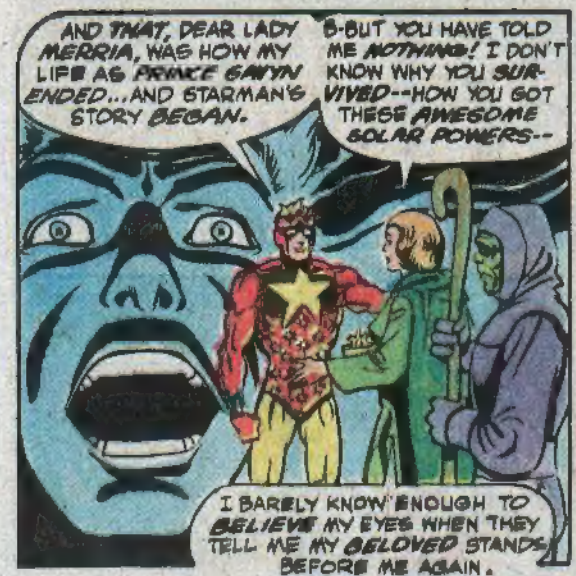
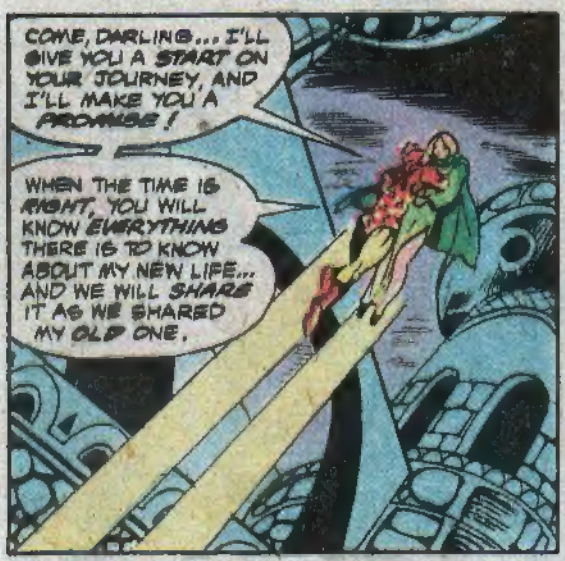
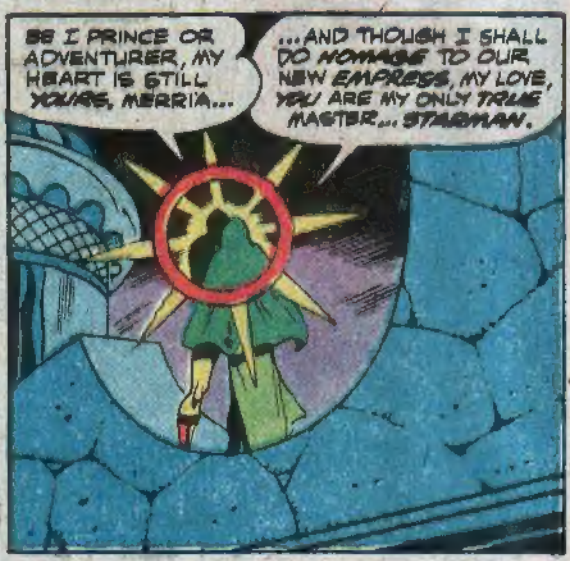

AND THAT, DEAR LADY MERRIA, WAS HOW MY LIFE AS PRINCE GAVYN ENDED... AND STARMAN'S STORY BEGAN.
B-BUT YOU HAVE TOLD ME NOTHING! I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU SURVIVED--HOW YOU GOT THESE AWESOME SOLAR POWERS--
I BARELY KNOW ENOUGH TO BELIEVE MY EYES WHEN THEY TELL ME MY BELOVED STANDS BEFORE ME AGAIN.

THE REST OF THE STORY IS STRANGER STILL... AND WOULD TAKE TOO LONG TO TELL.
YOU ARE OVERDUE TO PRESENT THE CROWN AT MY SISTER CLARISSA'S CORONATION.


COME, DARLING... I'LL GIVE YOU A START ON YOUR JOURNEY, AND I'LL MAKE YOU A PROMISE!
WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT, YOU WILL KNOW EVERYTHING THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT MY NEW LIFE... AND WE WILL SHARE IT AS WE SHARED MY OLD ONE.


BE I PRINCE OR ADVENTURER, MY HEART IS STILL YOURS, MERRIA...
...AND THOUGH I SHALL DO HOMAGE TO OUR NEW EMPRESS, MY LOVE, YOU ARE MY ONLY TRUE MASTER... STARMAN.

HMPH! EVEN MERRIA CALLS ME STARMAN NOW.
I SUPPOSE THAT PUTS THE LAST OF PRINCE GAVYN TO REST.
HE IS LONG GONE, LAD...

...ONLY YOU HAD TO REALIZE THAT.
APPEARING OUT OF NOWHERE AGAIN, eh, MN' TORR?
YOU SHOULD NOT COMPLAIN ABOUT MY LITTLE WHIMS, LAD.

FAIR ENOUGH... ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THE FIRST TIME YOU DID THAT TO ME...
"...I WAS DRIFTING IN SPACE, PREPARING TO DIE..."
WHAT--?! THAT CREATURE COMING TOWARDS ME-- WITHOUT A SPACESUIT?!?
MUST BE A HALLUCINATION-- MY BRAIN MUST BE GOING...
NO, YOUTH... I AM NO HALLUCINATION. NOR ARE YOU DYING.
ANY PLANET-BOUND BEING WOULD HAVE ALREADY DIED FROM SPACE EXPOSURE...
NUNH--? WHAT-- WHAT'S GOING --??
YES... I KNOW YOUR THOUGHTS AND YOU CAN HEAR MINE, BUT THAT IS UNIMPORTANT NOW.
NOW IT IS SIMPLY TIME FOR YOU TO... SLEEP...
I DREAMED STRANGE DREAMS AS THE HOURS PASSED... OF DISTANCES TRAVELLED AND WOUNDS HEALED...
"...AND WHEN I AWOKE, I DIDN'T REALLY NEED TO BE TOLD THAT NOTHING WOULD EVER AGAIN BE THE SAME..."
UNH... WHERE...?
I'M IN SOME SORT OF CAVE!

INDEED... IF CAVE IS THE BEST TERM YOU CAN FIND TO DESCRIBE IT.
IT IS MY RETREAT.
YOU--YOU'RE TH-THAT CREATURE I IMAGINED I SAW--!
ONCE MORE, YOUTH, I AM NEITHER CREATURE NOR HALLUCINATION, I AM MERELY A SEARCHER AFTER CERTAIN TRUTHS.
TRUTHS I FEAR I SHALL NEVER FIND... BECAUSE OF YOU!
ME-- WHY ME-- WHAT DID I DO?
YOU SCREAMED, AS YOU SHOULD WELL RECALL...
...AND I LISTENED, BREAKING A VOW OF MEDITATION THAT HAS ENDURED FOR MILLENNIA.
BUT I WAS DYING!
NO, YOUTH--YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE DYING. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE DIFFERENCE.
YOU ARE NOT LIKE OTHERS OF YOUR ANCESTRY--YOU HAVE GROWN BEYOND YOUR PLANET'S BOUNDS!
YOU MEAN I CAN SURVIVE IN SPACE-- WITHOUT A SUIT? THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
NOT FOR YOU. MANY THINGS ARE POSSIBLE FOR YOU THAT NO OTHER OF YOUR RACE CAN ASPIRE TO.
SOME OF THESE THINGS WILL COME NATURALLY-- OTHERS WITH TRAINING--
--AND THESE WILL HELP YOU CONTROL YOUR POWERS.
I-I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHO ARE YOU--WHY DID YOU SAVE ME--AND WHAT ARE THESE GAUNTLETS?
WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO TO REPAY YOU FOR ALL THIS?
YOU ARE MY BURDEN, YOUTH, BECAUSE I OPENED MY HEART TO YOUR SCREAM. NOW I MUST DO WHAT I CAN TO HELP YOU REACH YOUR DESTINY!
AND THOUGH I HAVE LONG SINCE RENOUNCED MY NAME, I SUPPOSE YOU MAY CALL ME... MN'TORR.

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

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I'D LIKE TO BORROW $250 MILLION.
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HE JUST DISAPPEARS INTO THE CROWDS. HOW CAN I STOP HIM LONG ENOUGH FOR WONDER WOMAN TO PUT HIM ON PERMANENT LOAN TO THE LOCAL JAIL?
I'VE GOT IT!
ITZ FURS
ARE THESE THE SAME TWINKIES® I BORROWED AS A BOY?
THE SAME! THE SAME CREAMED FILLING! THE SAME GOLDEN SPONGE CAKE! I'LL SIGN FOR THESE!
MY SIGNATURE, BORROWER!
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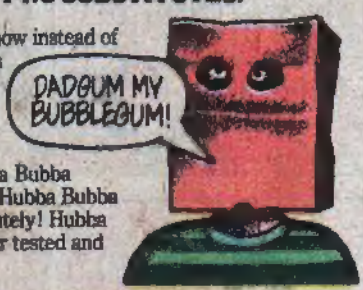

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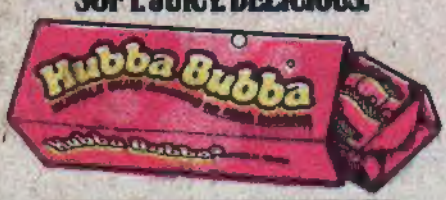
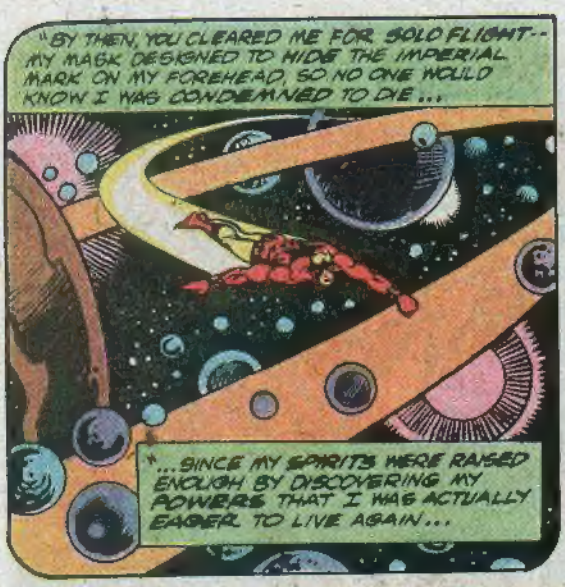
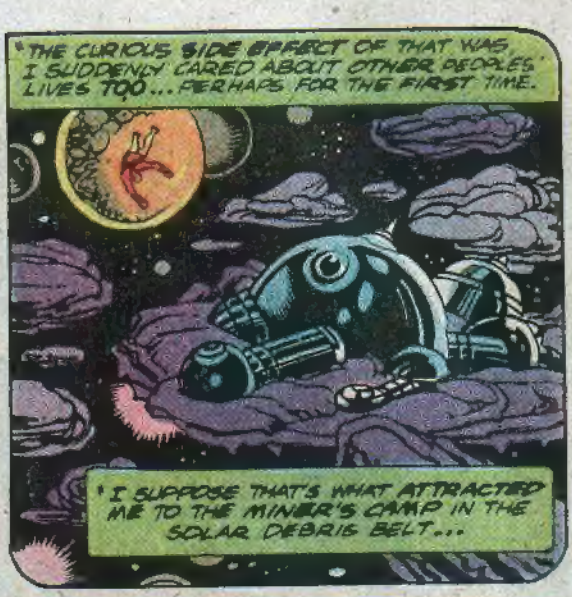


BIG BUBBLES, NO TROUBLES.

"FUNNY... I STILL DON'T KNOW MUCH MORE ABOUT YOU, MN'TORR.
"I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU FIGURED OUT THAT MY BODY CONVERTS STELLAR RADIATION INTO BIO-ENERGY, BUT YOU CERTAINLY WERE RIGHT.
"BUT YOU DID TEACH ME A LOT MORE ABOUT ME, EVEN AS WE DESIGNED MY COSTUME AND EQUIPMENT.
"BEFORE I KNEW IT, I WAS SOARING THROUGH SPACE MORE FREELY THAN A SHARK IN THE SEA...
"...CHANNELING THE STELLAR RADIATION THROUGH THOSE FANCY GAUNTLETS INTO BURSTS OF HEAT OR LIGHT--OR MICRO-RADIATION...
"...AND ALSO MANAGING TO ABSORB THE 'DEADLY' BLASTS OF ALL SORTS OF RADIATION-BASED WEAPONS.
"IT'S QUITE A BAG OF TRICKS... EVEN IF WE DID DISCOVER THAT MY POWERS GET WEAKER THE MORE INSULATED I AM FROM THE STARS.


"BY THEN, YOU CLEARED ME FOR SOLO FLIGHT--MY MASK DESIGNED TO HIDE THE IMPERIAL MARK ON MY FOREHEAD, SO NO ONE WOULD KNOW I WAS CONDEMNED TO DIE...
"...SINCE MY SPIRITS WERE RAISED ENOUGH BY DISCOVERING MY POWERS THAT I WAS ACTUALLY EAGER TO LIVE AGAIN...


"THE CURIOUS SIDE EFFECT OF THAT WAS, I SUDDENLY CARED ABOUT OTHER PEOPLES' LIVES TOO... PERHAPS FOR THE FIRST TIME.
"I SUPPOSE THAT'S WHAT ATTRACTED ME TO THE MINER'S CAMP IN THE SOLAR DEBRIS BELT...

"...AND TO MY REAL BAPTISM OF FIRE!"
HEY--NEED A HAND WITH THAT RIG, MINER?
YOUR HELP'S MORE THAN WELCOME, STRANGER--BUT YOUR SHIP WOULD BE EVEN BETTER!
CAN YOU BRING 'ER DOWN?

OF...NO... AFRAID NOT.
MORE'S THE PITY THEN--COULD USE MORE LIFT TO GET THESE RIGS AWAY!
YOU ARE BREAKING DOWN YOUR RIGS THEN? THE ORE RUN OUT?

PLENTY OF ORE, STRANGER... FOR ALL THE GOOD IT DOES US.
WE HAVEN'T HELD ON TO A CHUNK OF IT FOR WEEKS... WATCH!

THERE'S THE BLASTED BEAST THAT'S DRIVING US AWAY! IT EATS ALL THE ORE--
--AND WHEN WE'RE NOT CAREFUL, IT EATS US TOO!

WELL, IT'S RATHER SILLY TO LET THAT STOP YOU. IT IS SIMPLY A STUPID ASTEROID-VIPER.

EASY FOR YOU TO SAY! BUT THAT MONSTER'S BITTEN RIGHT THROUGH HER IMPERIAL MAJESTY'S BEST BATTLE ARMOR!
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO BUT LEAVE.
WE'LL SEE, MY FRIEND...
... WE'LL SEE.
WHA--?!
THERE MUST BE ANOTHER ASTEROID YOU COULD MUNCH ON INSTEAD, SCALY!
MAYBE CASTING A LITTLE LIGHT ON THE SUBJECT WILL DO THE TRICK.
WHOMP!
UMPHHHH!
NO, I GUESS NOT.
IN THAT CASE, I SUPPOSE I'LL HAVE TO BACK UP MY INVITATION FOR YOU TO LEAVE.

I'VE GOT HIM SO ANGRY, I THINK HE'LL FOLLOW ME ANYWHERE...
...THE ONLY QUESTION IS: WHERE'S ANYWHERE?
HMM... THERE WE GO. THAT SHOULD MAKE A TASTY MORSEL!
COME ON, BEAST-E-- DOWN WE GO--
--AND BY THE TIME YOU'VE EATEN YOUR WAY OUT OF THAT HOLE I'VE JUST SEALED, I'LL WAGER YOU'LL THINK YOU'VE FOUND A NEW HOME!
ALL OF WHICH SIMPLY GOES TO PROVE THAT THESE POWERS OF MINE CAN DO SOME GOOD!
MAYBE MN'TORR HASN'T BEEN WASTING HIS TIME, AFTER ALL!

CONCLUDED ON 3rd PAGE FOLLOWING

Hey Kids, have as much fun in Fruit Stripe Land as you do chewing Fruit Stripe Gum.

Q: There are two delicious Fruit Stripe Gums to choose from. What are they?

A: Fruit Stripe Regular and Fruit Stripe Bubble Gum.

Q: Why do we put all those wild, colorful, fruity stripes on every single stick?

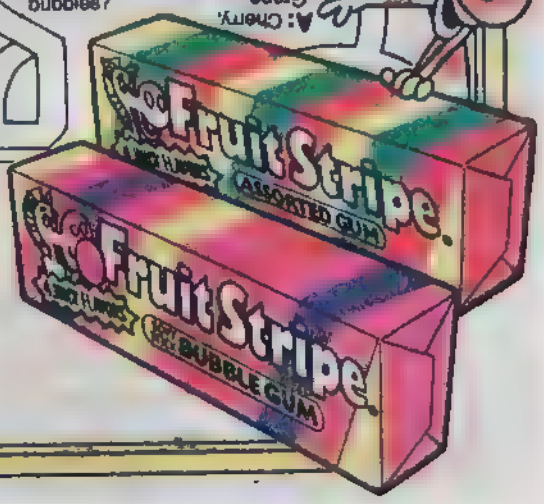
A: To show you that deeeee-lickous fruity Fruit Stripe Flavor

Q: There's a whole herd of flavors inside every pack. How many can you find?

A: Lemon, Orange, Cherry, Lime, Grape and Bubble Gum flavor, too.

Q: What are the four different kinds of big, juicy, easy-to-blow bubbles?

A: Cherry, Grape, Lemon and Bubble Gum.



It sure was fun galloping through Fruit Stripe Land with you

Regular and Bubble Gum

Fruit Stripe Gum

means

Fruit Stripe Fun

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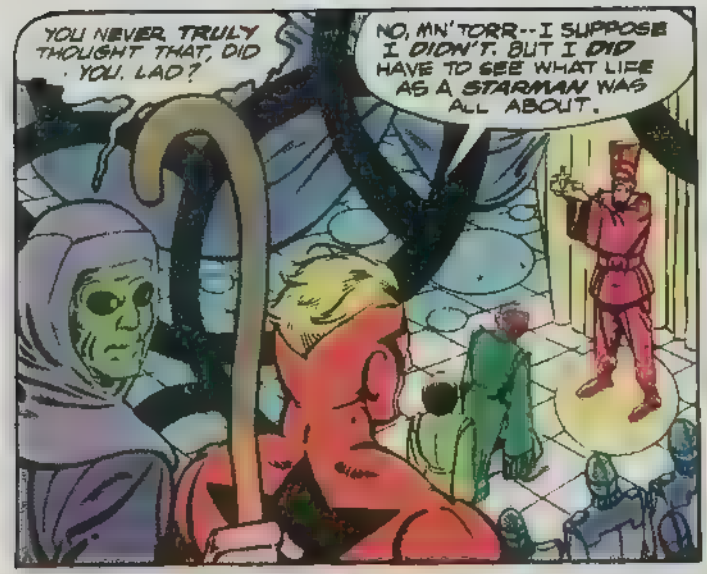
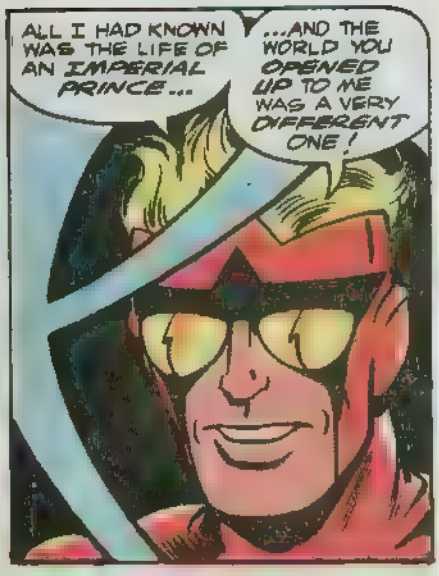
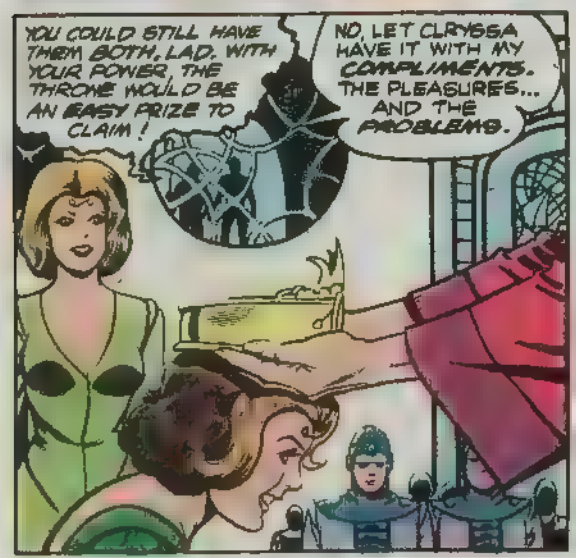
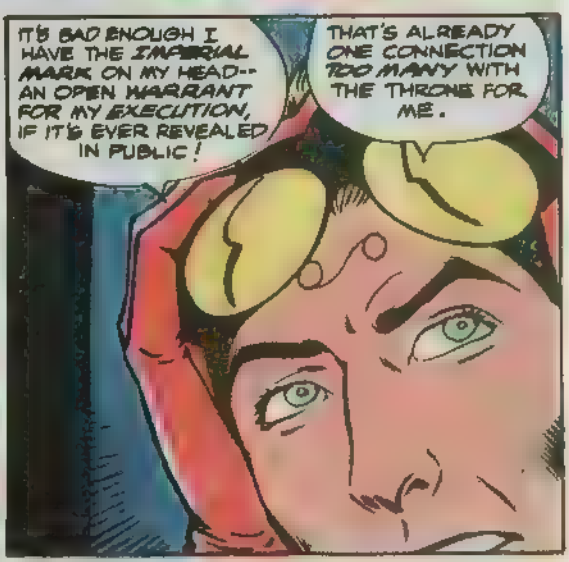
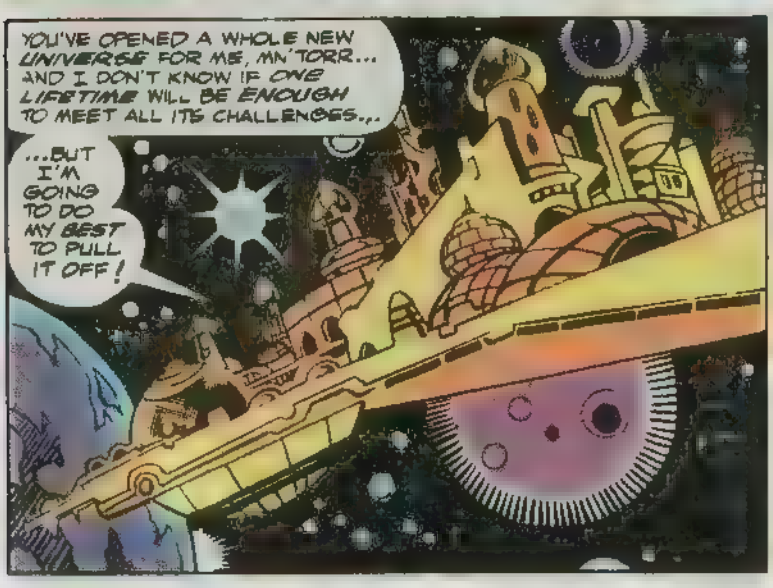
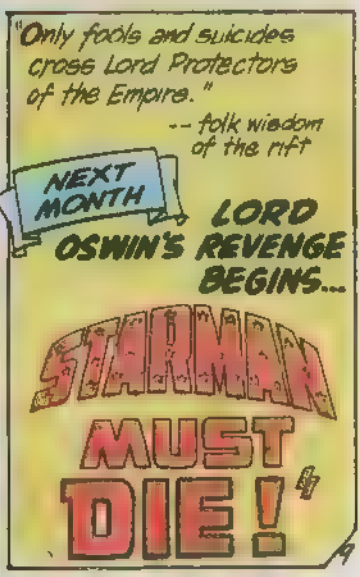

YOU NEVER TRULY THOUGHT THAT, DID YOU, LAD?
NO, MN'TORR--I SUPPOSE I DIDN'T. BUT I DID HAVE TO SEE WHAT LIFE AS A STARMAN WAS ALL ABOUT.


ALL I HAD KNOWN WAS THE LIFE OF AN IMPERIAL PRINCE...
...AND THE WORLD YOU OPENED UP TO ME WAS A VERY DIFFERENT ONE!


YOU COULD STILL HAVE THEM BOTH, LAD. WITH YOUR POWER, THE THRONE WOULD BE AN EASY PRIZE TO CLAIM!
NO, LET CLRYSSA HAVE IT WITH MY COMPLIMENTS. THE PLEASURES... AND THE PROBLEMS.


IT'S BAD ENOUGH I HAVE THE IMPERIAL MARK ON MY HEAD--AN OPEN WARRANT FOR MY EXECUTION, IF IT'S EVER REVEALED IN PUBLIC!
THAT'S ALREADY ONE CONNECTION TOO MANY WITH THE THRONE FOR ME.


YOU'VE OPENED A WHOLE NEW UNIVERSE FOR ME, MN'TORR... AND I DON'T KNOW IF ONE LIFETIME WILL BE ENOUGH TO MEET ALL ITS CHALLENGES...
...BUT I'M GOING TO DO MY BEST TO PULL IT OFF!


"Only fools and suicides cross Lord Protectors of the Empire."
-- folk wisdom of the rift
NEXT MONTH
LORD OSWIN'S REVENGE BEGINS...
STARMAN MUST DIE!

DATELINE: ADVENTURE

L-470

Dear Editor

It's classic that a Golden Age hero like Plastic Man would make it back into the pages of one of the few comics that has been continuously published since the Golden Age, ADVENTURE.

This comic has gone through a multitude of format changes in its forty some-odd year existence. And beginning with the January issue, we will apparently see yet another.

Fortunately, the storyline and art of the new Plastic Man series does not have a present day setting. You have retained its original perspective: the penciils are as cartoony, characters are caricatured, and the storyline and dialogue is permeated with light-hearted wit.

The actual plot, PM's attempt to bring in Canary to the N.B.I., was weak. The action-packed events were effective, but if this series is to continue on a monthly basis, there should be some sub-plot developments. But just bringing back Plas is a novel idea, he is DC's only amusing super-hero.

Whereas Plastic Man appeals to the lolly-pop crowd, Starman's appeal will be aimed at the more mature audience. 'First Encounter' is a well plotted, polished story, from the art to the dialogue. The art is the best Ditko work I've ever seen. It didn't have that hurried and distorted aura that has plagued so many of his recent renderings.

Starman's introduction was notable. The characterization was subtle, and the individualism apparent. Levitz didn't dwell on the origin, but instead entertained us with Starman's physical attributes.

Alan Gary Giroux
Phoenix, AZ

Maybe we're prejudiced, but we think Plas is comics' only amusing super-hero—all the others are blatant humor series or straight characters gone wrong. And we also think he's probably the more sophisticated of our two series, because of that very subtlety. However, to each...

For trivia fans information, the reason why the first Plas story didn't have sub-plots—or the second—is because they were written in reverse order, when the series was originally planned for another, bi-monthly mag.

* * * * *

Dear Editor,

The "new" *Adventure Comics*, if indeed one can call a comic that has lasted 467 issues new, seems to be a great improvement over its dollar-sized predecessor. I'm glad you decided to choose two relatively unpublicized features to showcase the book - *Adventure Comics* should be a testing ground for new concepts and new heroes.

At last, somebody decided to portray Plastic Man the way he was always meant to be! In the past, nobody seemed to know quite what to do with this rather odd fellow. Various writers alternated between making Plas a more serious Elongated Man-type character and chose to forsake his comical roots, while others chose to update him and place him in a more urban setting - a 1979 Plas, so to speak. I'm sure that Jack Cole never meant for anyone to take his creation seriously. His Plastic Man is best handled as originally intended - as a "fun" character. He's someone to laugh at. The very nature of his powers is too improbable to take seriously. By returning his sidekick Woozy Winks (ah, nostalgia time!), and giving the series a distinctive 1940's feel, Len Wein has redeemed all past misconceptions of Plas.

Joe Staton has once again proven himself to be the master of versatility. How Joe can adapt his penciils to certain strips is beyond me. Each feature he does comes off as distinct from the other. With Plas, he has captured the flavor of Will Eisner. Through standardized panel breakdowns (appropriate for the nostalgic aura), Joe enhances the feeling that the character is here simply for fun. No relevancy should invade this strip. Comics reading for the sake of pure enjoyment is the key and this debut is certainly a giant step to that end.

Now, to Starman. I suppose I will be saying something tantamount to heresy in the comics world, but here goes. I have never, and probably never will care for Steve Ditko's penciils. His total lack of experimentation and detailed backgrounds just doesn't cut it for me. The standard panel arrangement, while fine for a strip like Plastic Man, doesn't fit into Starman's rather cosmic milieu. The large scale action which should be associated with such a character becomes too restricted in Steve's six-panels-a-page layout. The artwork brought the story down a couple of notches as well. Paul seems to have an intriguing plotline going here, despite some gaping holes in character development. But I'm sure this will be worked out in future issues. First appearances are always a bit restrictive anyway, serving more as a vehicle for introduction. By the way, do I see some similarities to a certain Kree spaceman in Starman's costume and cosmic powers?!

Overall, an enjoyable issue. I'm a sucker for new features and new concepts and this issue totally satisfied my taste buds. I'm glad I was given an advance on the issue, but boy, will I be anxious to see all of this in color! Thanks, guys.

MIKE BATES
3414 LEXINGTON
PONTIAC, MICH 48054

As following issues have shown, Starman's powers are anything but cosmic in scale: simply solar, if you please.

* * * * *

NEXT ISSUE: Plas begins his final showdown with Brickface and the Trowel, while the order goes out, "Starman Must Die!" And if that isn't enough, well, you'll also have—Len Wein

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(Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

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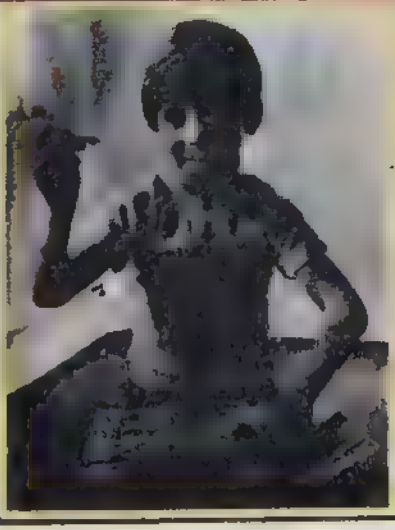

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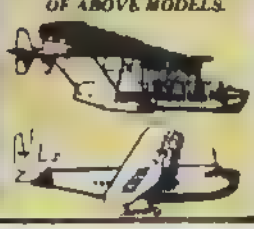

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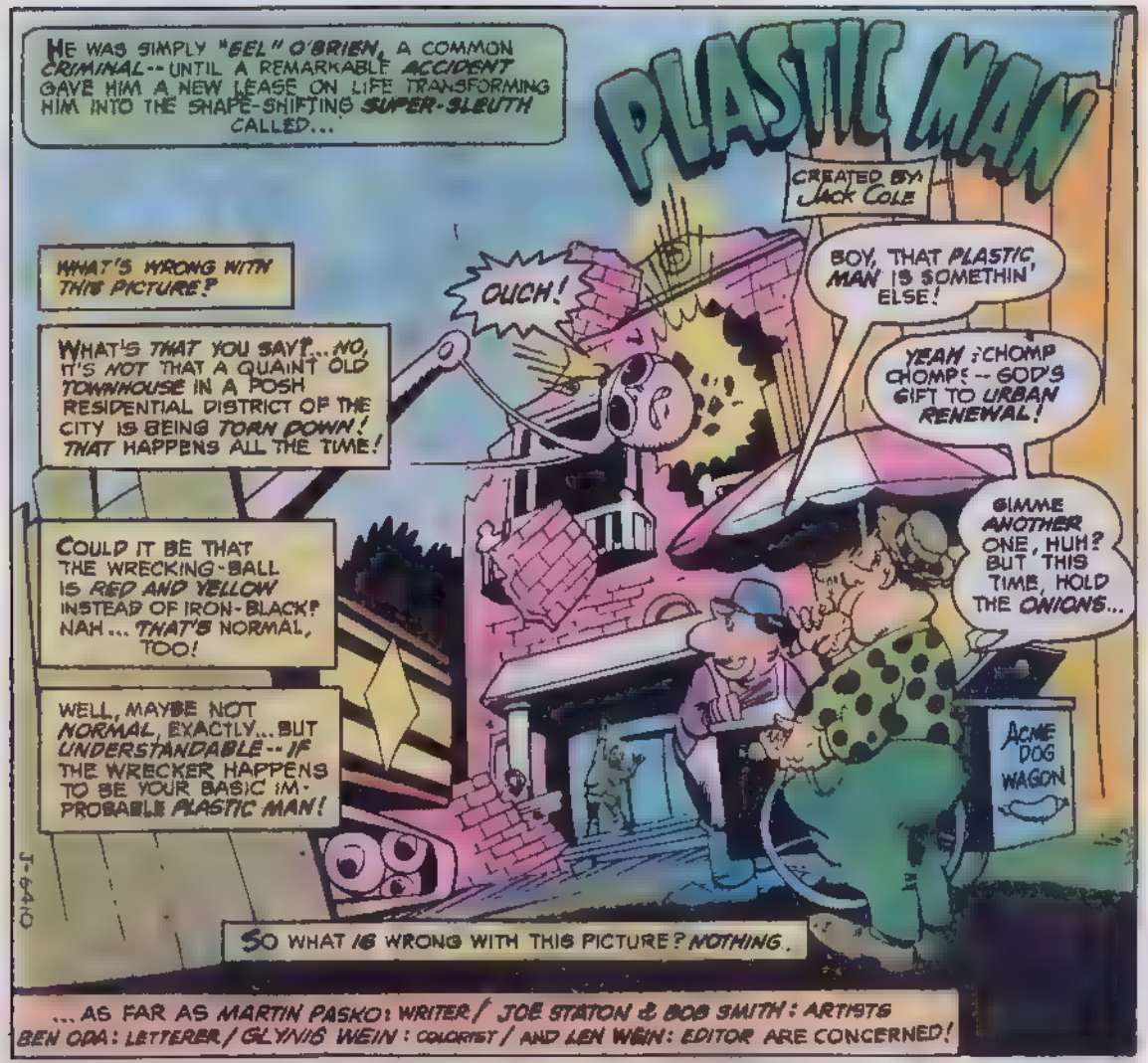
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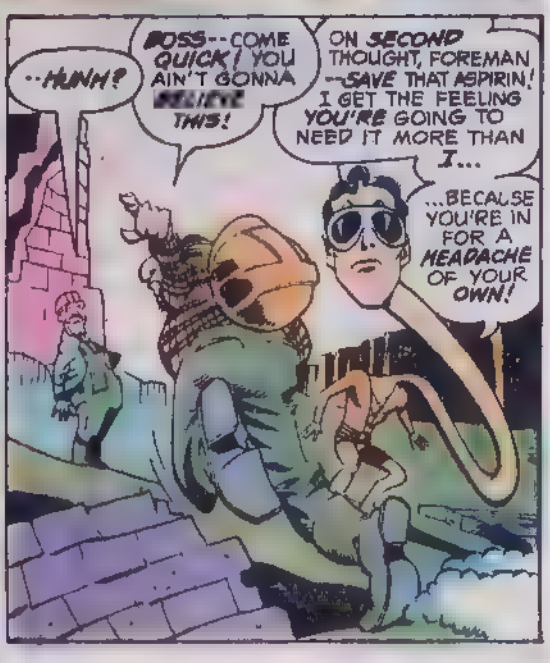
WHAT'S THAT YOU SAY?... NO, IT'S NOT THAT A QUAINT OLD TOWNHOUSE IN A POSH RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT OF THE CITY IS BEING TORN DOWN! THAT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME!
COULD IT BE THAT THE WRECKING-BALL IS RED AND YELLOW INSTEAD OF IRON-BLACK? NAH... THAT'S NORMAL, TOO!
WELL, MAYBE NOT NORMAL, EXACTLY... BUT UNDERSTANDABLE -- IF THE WRECKER HAPPENS TO BE YOUR BASIC IM-PROBABLE PLASTIC MAN!
OUCH!
BOY, THAT PLASTIC MAN IS SOMETHIN' ELSE!
YEAH; CHOMP CHOMP! -- GOD'S GIFT TO URBAN RENEWAL!
GIMME ANOTHER ONE, HUH? BUT THIS TIME, HOLD THE ONIONS...
ACME DOG WAGON
J-640
SO WHAT IS WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE? NOTHING.
... AS FAR AS MARTIN PASKO: WRITER / JOE STATON & BOB SMITH: ARTISTS BEN ODA: LETTERER / GLYNIS WEIN: COLORIST / AND LEN WEIN: EDITOR ARE CONCERNED!

THANKS, PLAS! CAN'T TELL YA HOW MUCH TIME YA SAVED ME AN' MY WRECKIN'-CREW!
SO ANY TIME YOU WANT SOMETHIN' FROM ME... JUST NAME IT!
WELL, IN THAT CASE ; UUNH! ... COULD YOU GET ME AN ASPIRIN?
GOOD LORD!


--HUNH?
BOSS -- COME QUICK! YOU AIN'T GONNA BELIEVE THIS!
ON SECOND THOUGHT, FOREMAN --SAVE THAT ASPIRIN! I GET THE FEELING YOU'RE GOING TO NEED IT MORE THAN I...
...BECAUSE YOU'RE IN FOR A HEADACHE OF YOUR OWN!

LOOKIT WHAT FELL OUT FROM BEHIND THE WALL THAT JUST CAME DOWN--A PLASTIC TRASH-BAG!
AN' IT DON'T LOOK LIKE IT'S BEEN LEFT OVER FROM THE LAST SANITATION WORKERS' STRIKE, NEITHER!
NO--IT LOOKS LIKE A... A BODY!
SURE DOES... AND IT MUST HAVE BEEN IN THIS AIR-TIGHT BAG A LONG TIME!
IT'S NOT DECOMPOSED --IT'S SORT OF-- MUMMIFIED!
OOLP!
OBVIOUSLY A MURDER VICTIM... HE'S BEEN STABBED REPEATEDLY!
BUT LOOK AT THE WOUNDS--SEE THAT FLAKY WHITE DEBRIS IN THEM? DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT COULD BE... BUT IT'S UP TO ME TO FIND OUT!
THIS PROPERTY WAS RECENTLY BOUGHT BY THE GOVERNMENT --MAKING IT FEDERAL LAND...
...WHICH MEANS THIS MURDER COMES UNDER THE N.B.I.'S JURISDICTION!
SO I GUESS I'VE GOT MYSELF A CASE, EH, WOOZY?
WOOZY!
WOOZY?
HMPH! I TOLD HIM TO LAY OFF THOSE CHEAP HOT DOGS!
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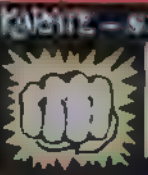

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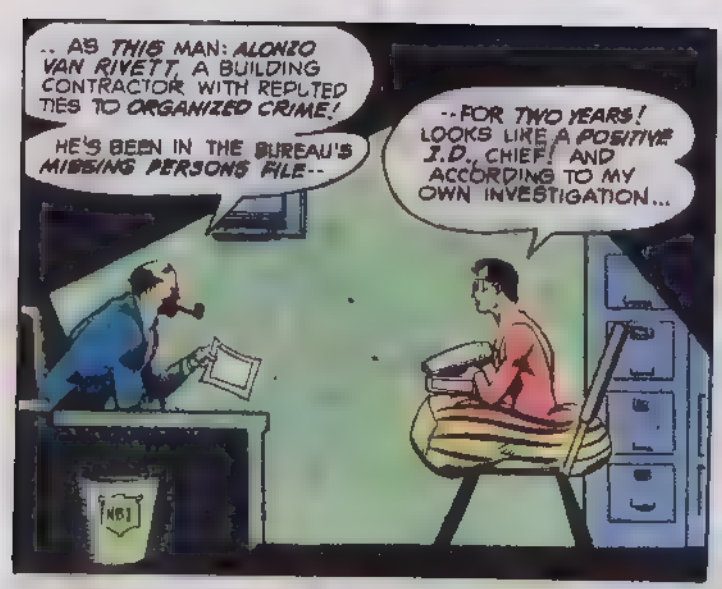
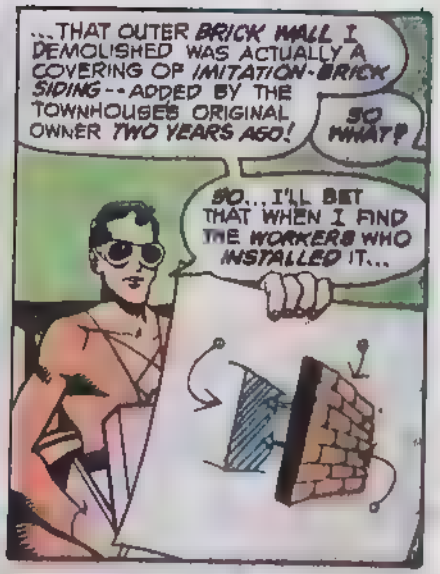
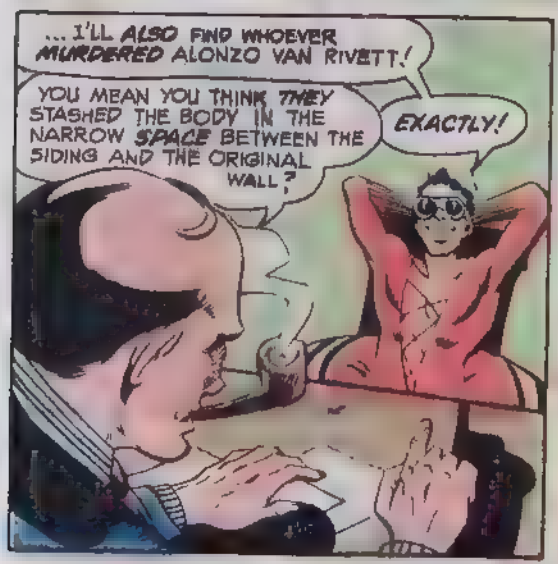
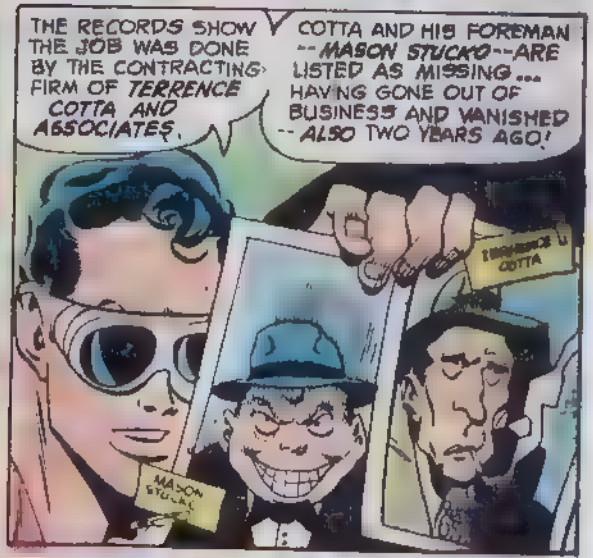
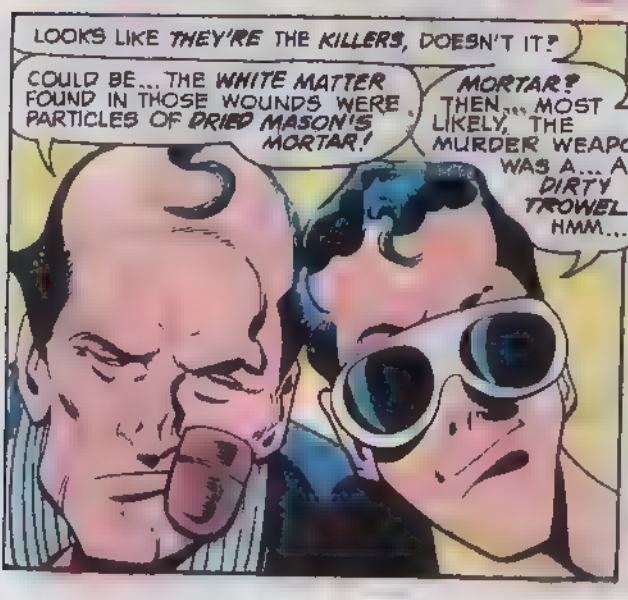
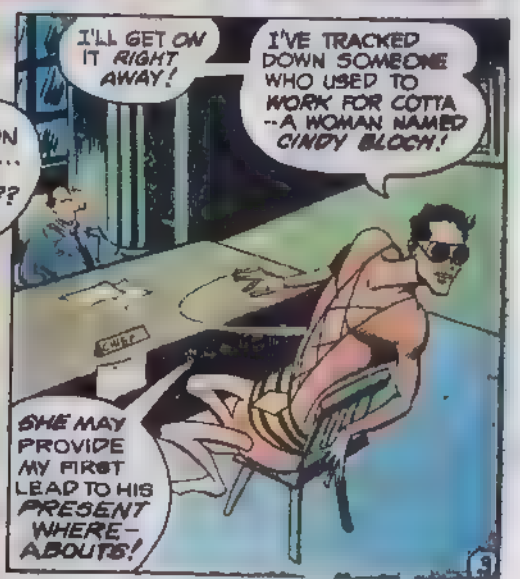

.. AS THIS MAN: ALONZO VAN RIVETT, A BUILDING CONTRACTOR WITH REPUTED TIES TO ORGANIZED CRIME!
HE'S BEEN IN THE BUREAU'S MISSING PERSONS FILE--
--FOR TWO YEARS! LOOKS LIKE A POSITIVE I.D., CHIEF! AND ACCORDING TO MY OWN INVESTIGATION...

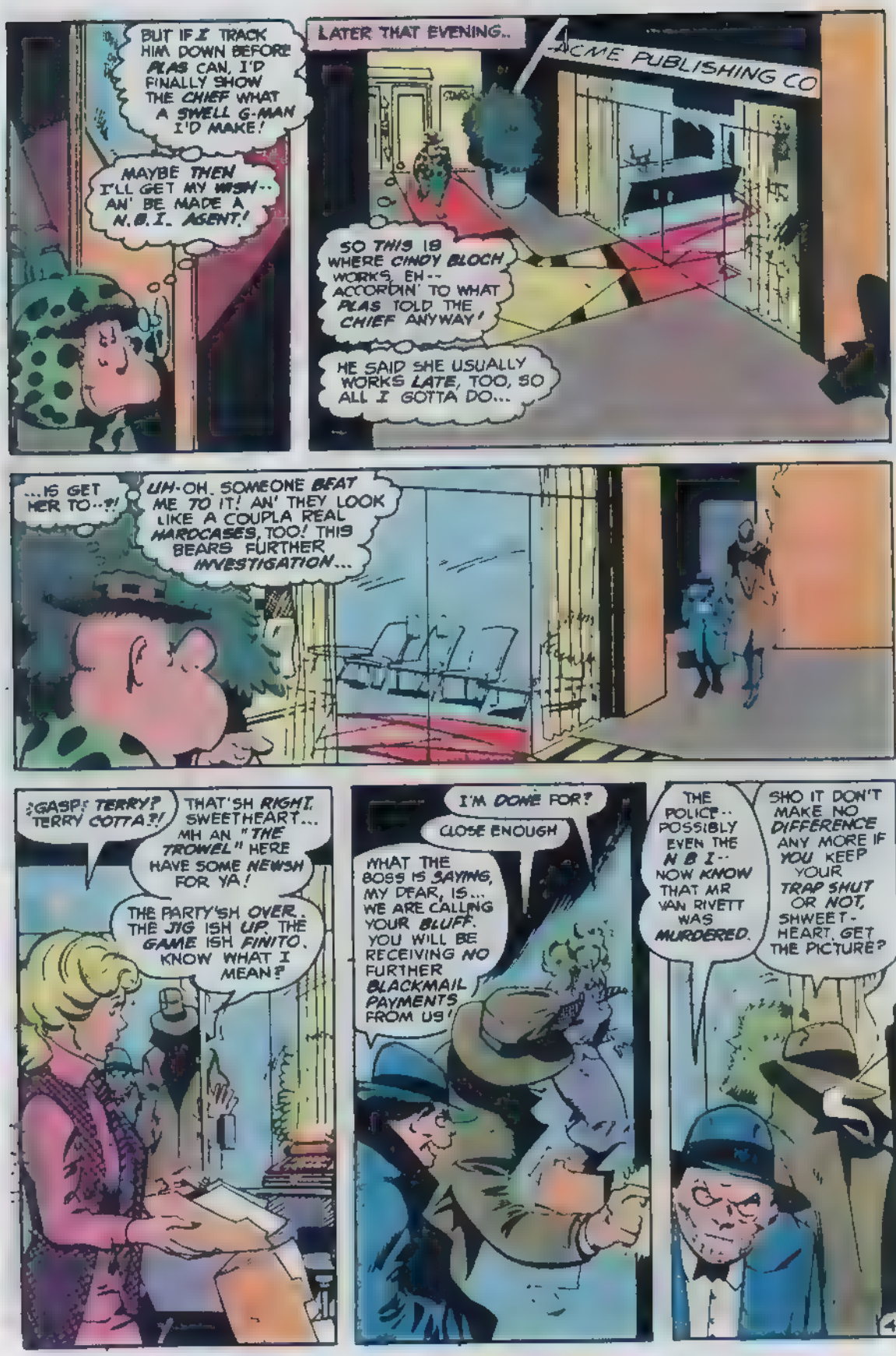

...THAT OUTER BRICK WALL I DEMOLISHED WAS ACTUALLY A COVERING OF IMITATION-BRICK SIDING--ADDED BY THE TOWNHOUSES ORIGINAL OWNER TWO YEARS AGO!
SO WHAT?
SO... I'LL BET THAT WHEN I FIND THE WORKERS WHO INSTALLED IT...


... I'LL ALSO FIND WHOEVER MURDERED ALONZO VAN RIVETT!
YOU MEAN YOU THINK THEY STASHED THE BODY IN THE NARROW SPACE BETWEEN THE SIDING AND THE ORIGINAL WALL?
EXACTLY!

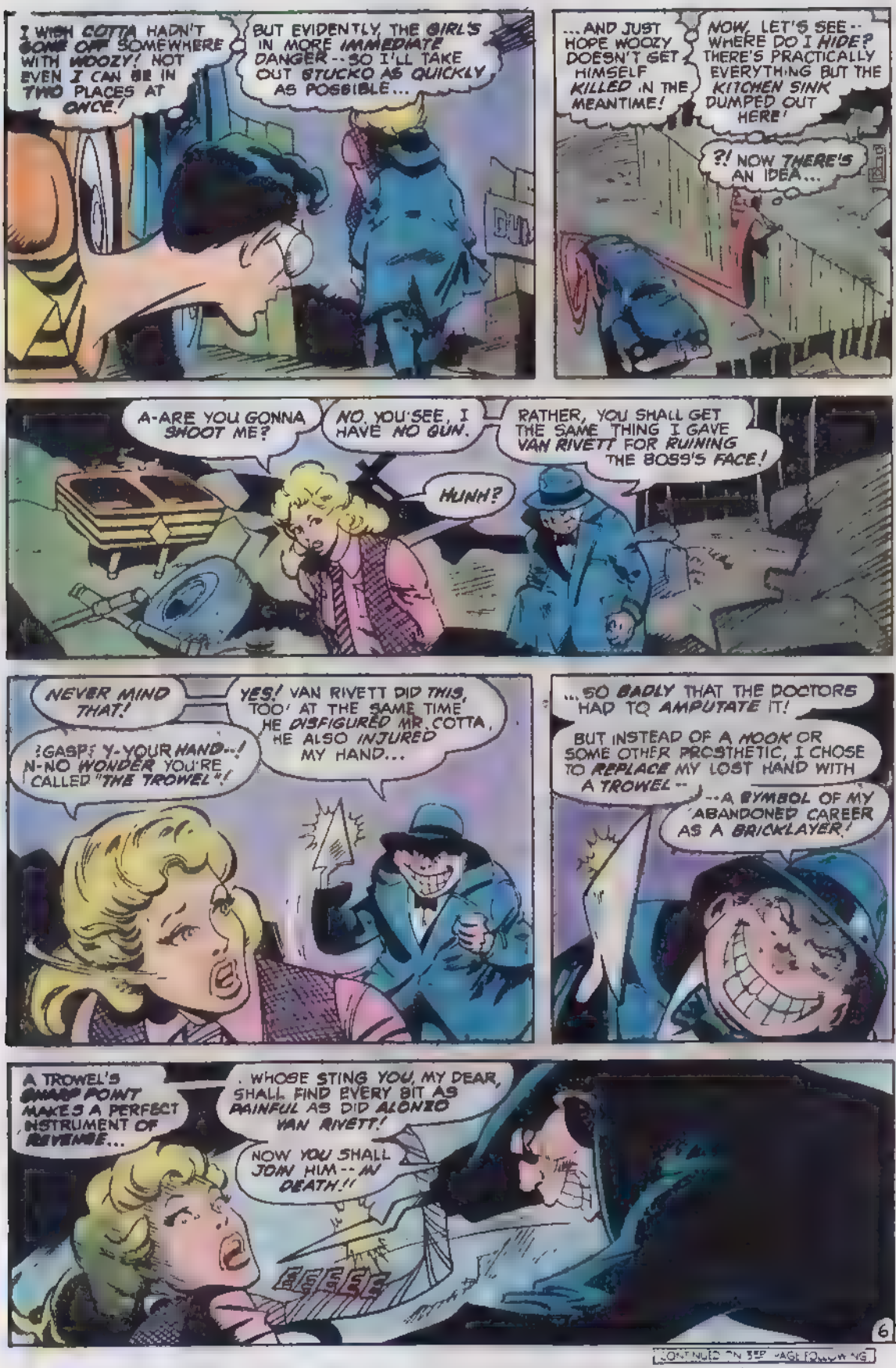

THE RECORDS SHOW THE JOB WAS DONE BY THE CONTRACTING FIRM OF TERRENCE COTTA AND ASSOCIATES.
COTTA AND HIS FOREMAN --MASON STUCKO--ARE LISTED AS MISSING... HAVING GONE OUT OF BUSINESS AND VANISHED --ALSO TWO YEARS AGO!
COTTA
MASON STUCKO


LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE THE KILLERS, DOESN'T IT?
COULD BE... THE WHITE MATTER FOUND IN THOSE WOUNDS WERE PARTICLES OF DRIED MASON'S MORTAR!
MORTAR? THEN... MOST LIKELY, THE MURDER WEAPON WAS A... A... DIRTY TROWEL?? HMM...


I'LL GET ON IT RIGHT AWAY!
I'VE TRACKED DOWN SOMEONE WHO USED TO WORK FOR COTTA --A WOMAN NAMED CINDY BLOCH!
SHE MAY PROVIDE MY FIRST LEAD TO HIS PRESENT WHERE-ABOUTS!
9


BUT IF I TRACK HIM DOWN BEFORE PLAS CAN, I'D FINALLY SHOW THE CHIEF WHAT A SWELL G-MAN I'D MAKE!
MAYBE THEN I'LL GET MY WISH-- AN' BE MADE A N.B.I. AGENT!
LATER THAT EVENING..
ACME PUBLISHING CO
SO THIS IS WHERE CINDY BLOCH WORK'S, EH-- ACCORDIN' TO WHAT PLAS TOLD THE CHIEF ANYWAY!
HE SAID SHE USUALLY WORKS LATE, TOO, SO ALL I GOTTA DO...
...IS GET HER TO--?!
UH-OH. SOMEONE BEAT ME TO IT! AN' THEY LOOK LIKE A COUPLA REAL HARDCASES, TOO! THIS BEARS FURTHER INVESTIGATION...
¡GASP! TERRY? TERRY COTTA?!
THAT'SH RIGHT, SWEETHEART... MH AN "THE TROWEL" HERE HAVE SOME NEWSH FOR YA!
THE PARTY'SH OVER. THE JIG ISH UP. THE GAME ISH FINITO. KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
I'M DOME FOR?
CLOSE ENOUGH
WHAT THE BOSS IS SAYING, MY DEAR, IS... WE ARE CALLING YOUR BLUFF. YOU WILL BE RECEIVING NO FURTHER BLACKMAIL PAYMENTS FROM US!
THE POLICE-- POSSIBLY EVEN THE N B I-- NOW KNOW THAT MR VAN RIVETT WAS MURDERED.
SHO IT DON'T MAKE NO DIFFERENCE ANY MORE IF YOU KEEP YOUR TRAP SHUT OR NOT, SHWEET-HEART. GET THE PICTURE?
4

BOSS--LOOK... A SHADOW--! SOMEONE HAS FOLLOWED US HERE!
PROBABLY SHOME FAT FLAT-FOOTED COPPER FROM THE LOOKSH OF HIM! SHTUCKO--TAKE CARE OF HIM!
RIGHT AWAY, BOSS.
SWAMPF
:UNNH...:
PRESENTLY...
FLAT-FOOTED? PERHAPS. FAT? DEFINITELY. BUT A COPPER--? I DON'T THINK SO...
WELL, WHATEVER HE IS :OOF:-- I'LL HANDLE HIM! YOU GET RID OF THE DAME.
SEEMS LIKE THOSE TWO ARE THE KILLERS, ALL RIGHT...
... BUT I CAN'T LAY A PLASTIC FINGER ON THEM TILL I HEAR SOMETHING THAT SOUNDS MORE LIKE A CONFESSION!
GUESS I'LL HAVE TO FOLLOW THEM TO GET IT...
...NOT TO MENTION PULLING WOOZY'S FAT OUT OF THE FIRE--!
NOW LET'S SEE -- IT SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD TO BEAT THEM TO THE GROUND FLOOR USING THE STAIRS...
...NOT FOR STRETCHABLE ME, ANYWAY...
SOON, ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN...
INTO THE DUMP MY DEAR -- MOVE!
THIS IS WHAT WE CALL THE END OF THE LINE... :EH-HENH! EH-HENH!:
DUMP
5


I WISH COTTA HADN'T GONE OFF SOMEWHERE WITH WOOZY! NOT EVEN I CAN BE IN TWO PLACES AT ONCE!
BUT EVIDENTLY, THE GIRL'S IN MORE IMMEDIATE DANGER--SO I'LL TAKE OUT STUCKO AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE...
...AND JUST HOPE WOOZY DOESN'T GET HIMSELF KILLED IN THE MEANTIME!
NOW, LET'S SEE--WHERE DO I HIDE? THERE'S PRACTICALLY EVERYTHING BUT THE KITCHEN SINK DUMPED OUT HERE!
?! NOW THERE'S AN IDEA...
A-ARE YOU GONNA SHOOT ME?
NO, YOU SEE, I HAVE NO GUN.
RATHER, YOU SHALL GET THE SAME THING I GAVE VAN RIVETT FOR RUINING THE BOSS'S FACE!
HUNH?
NEVER MIND THAT!
YES! VAN RIVETT DID THIS, TOO! AT THE SAME TIME HE DISFIGURED MR. COTTA, HE ALSO INJURED MY HAND...
!GASP! Y-YOUR HAND--! N-NO WONDER YOU'RE CALLED "THE TROWEL"!
...SO BADLY THAT THE DOCTORS HAD TO AMPUTATE IT!
BUT INSTEAD OF A HOOK OR SOME OTHER PROSTHETIC, I CHOSE TO REPLACE MY LOST HAND WITH A TROWEL--
--A SYMBOL OF MY ABANDONED CAREER AS A BRICKLAYER!
A TROWEL'S SHARP POINT MAKES A PERFECT INSTRUMENT OF REVENGE...
. WHOSE STING YOU, MY DEAR, SHALL FIND EVERY BIT AS PAINFUL AS DID ALONZO VAN RIVETT!
NOW YOU SHALL JOIN HIM--IN DEATH!!
EEEEE
6
CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE FOLLOWING

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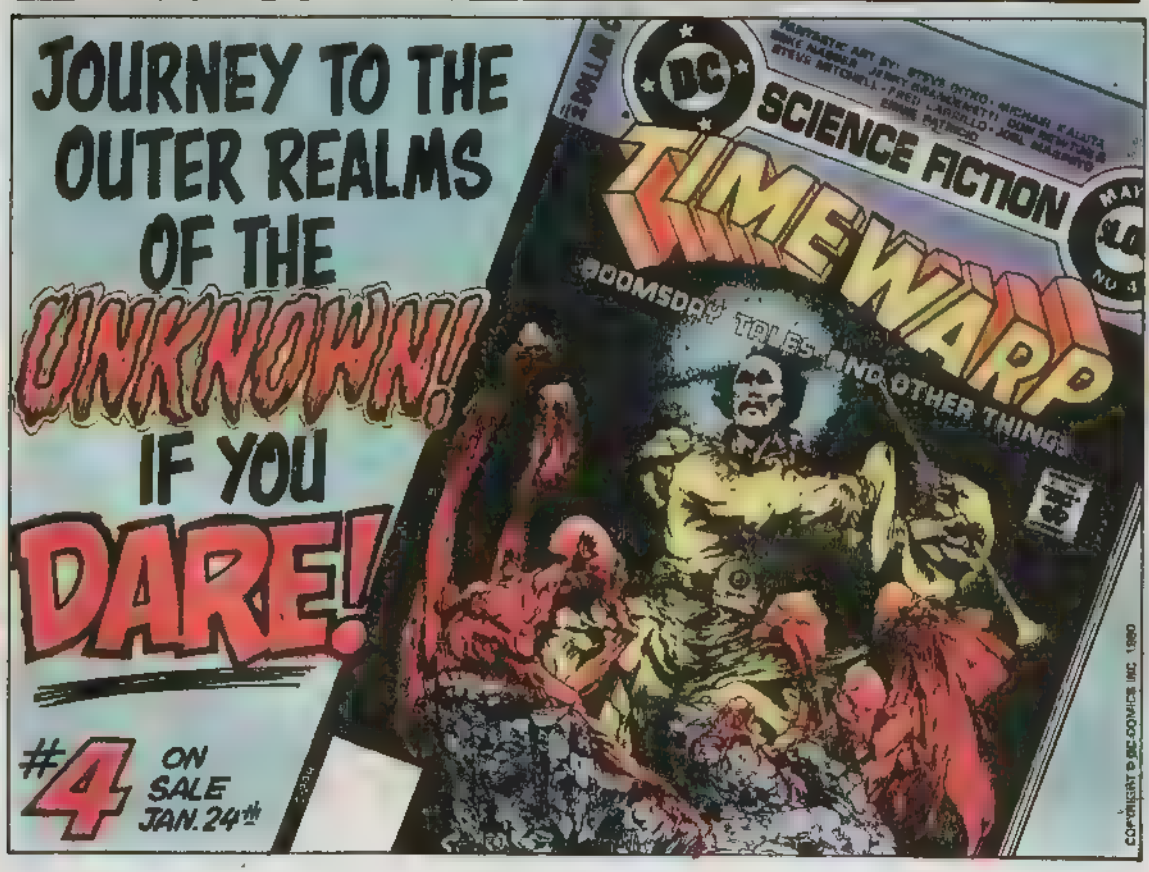
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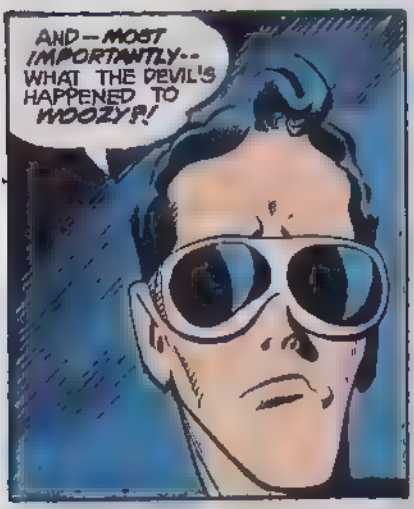
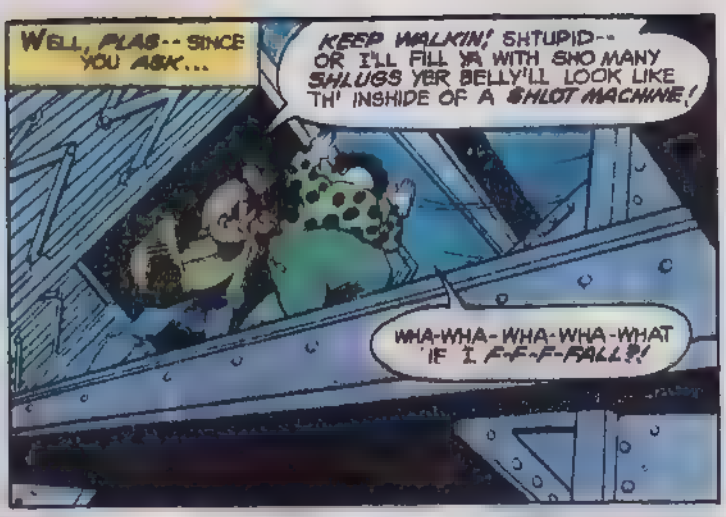
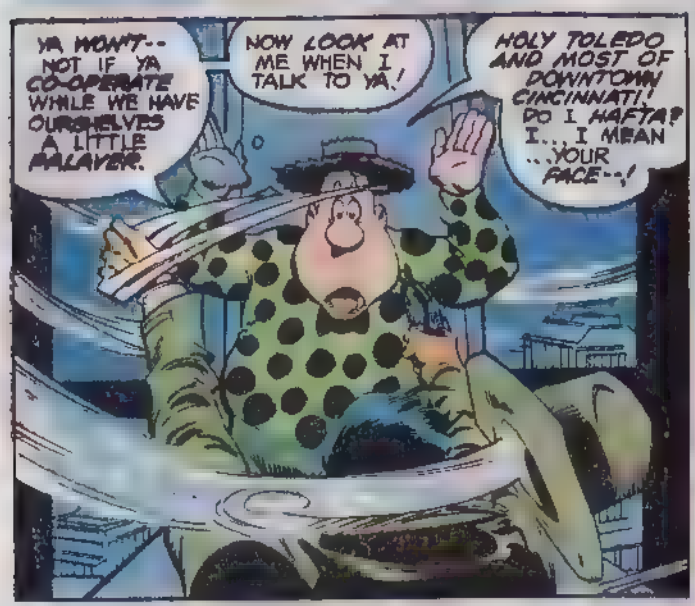
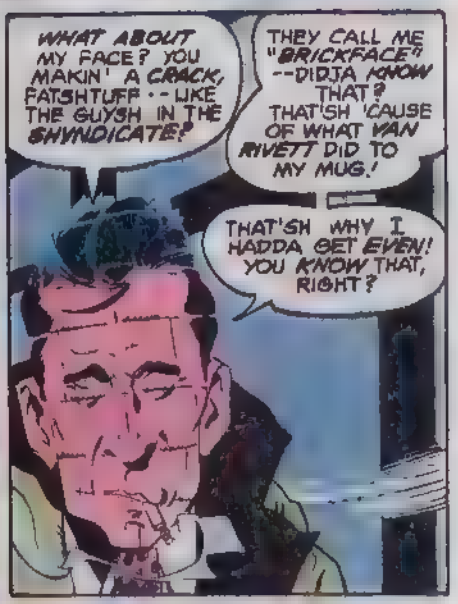
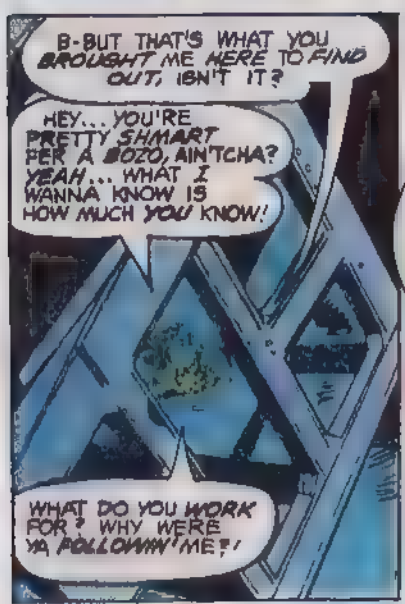
I THINK I'VE HEARD JUST ABOUT ENOUGH...
--EH?! MY--MY HAND--I MEAN MY TROWEL!--I MEAN...
PLASTIC MAN?!
I HAVE A SINKING FEELING...
...THIS IS THE END OF--? UNNH!
BOK
SKUNCH
WOOB
BOY, HAVE I EVER LEARNED MY LESSON ABOUT GETTING MIXED UP WITH CROOKS!
OH, PLASTIC MAN, HOW CAN I EVER THANK YOU FOR SAVING ME?? SMEK SMEK SMEK SMEK
FOR OPENERS, YOU CAN CUT OUT THE KISSY-FACE AND GIVE ME SOME ANSWERS!
HOW WERE YOU BLACKMAILING COTTA--AND WHY?
WHAT DID STUCKO MEAN ABOUT HIS HAND--AND COTTA'S FACE?
7

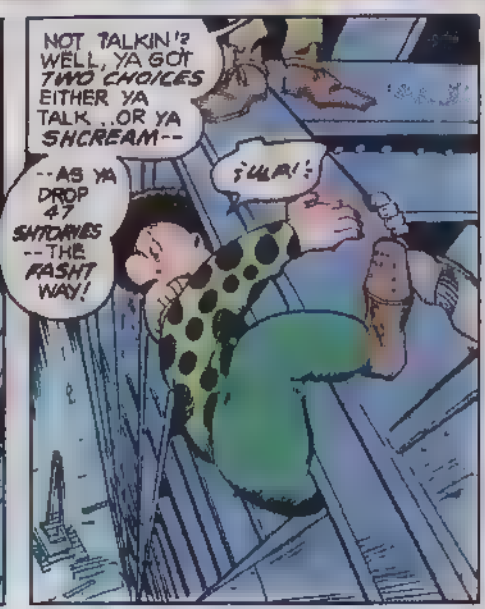



WELL, PLAS—SINCE YOU ASK...
KEEP WALKIN! SHTUPID—OR I'LL FILL YA WITH SHO MANY SHLUGS YER BELLY'LL LOOK LIKE TH' INSHIDE OF A SHLOT MACHINE!
WHA-WHA-WHA-WHA-WHAT IF I F-F-F-FALL?!


YA WON'T—NOT IF YA CO-OPERATE WHILE WE HAVE OURSHELVES A LITTLE PALAVER.
NOW LOOK AT ME WHEN I TALK TO YA!
HOLY TOLEDO AND MOST OF DOWNTOWN CINCINNATI! DO I HAFTA? I... I MEAN ...YOUR FACE—!


WHAT ABOUT MY FACE? YOU MAKIN' A CRACK, FATSHTUFF—LIKE THE GUYSH IN THE SHYNDICATE?
THEY CALL ME "BRICKFACE" —DIDJA KNOW THAT? THAT'SH 'CAUSE OF WHAT VAN RIVETT DID TO MY MUG!
THAT'SH WHY I HADDA GET EVEN! YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT?


B-BUT THAT'S WHAT YOU BROUGHT ME HERE TO FIND OUT, ISN'T IT?
HEY... YOU'RE PRETTY SHMART FER A BOZO, AIN'TCHA? YEAH... WHAT I WANNA KNOW IS HOW MUCH YOU KNOW!
WHAT DO YOU WORK FOR? WHY WERE YA FOLLOWIN' ME?!



* WHO IS "BRICKFACE" —REALLY? AND HOW DID HE GET THAT WAY?
* WHY DID HE ACE OUT ALONZO VAN RIVETT?!?
* AND WHAT'S CINDY BLOCH'S CONNECTION WITH ALL THIS?!??

FOR THE ANSWERS TO THESE AND OTHER BURNING QUESTIONS, BUY OUR NEXT ISSUE—AND HELP KEEP WOOZY OFF THE STREETS (IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE!)..

END

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE LAST WEEK IN FEBRUARY

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VOLUME 80 ISSUE 4 WEEK OF JANUARY 21, 1980 BOB ROZAKIS: EDITOR LYNNE GELFER: PRODUCTION

FLASH SPEEDS INTO DIGEST

BLUE RIBBON SPECIAL #2 FEATURES SCARLET SPEEDSTER

(Central City)—It's a return to the early days of the career of *The Flash* when *DC SPECIAL BLUE RIBBON DIGEST* #2 hits the stands the week of February 11th. Editor Len Wein has put together 100 pages of the best adventures of the Scarlet Speedster and his cast of supporting characters.

You'll see *The Flash* team-up with *Green Lantern* in "Captives of the Cosmic Ray" You'll see the Scarlet Speedster and *Elongated Man* as prisoners of *Captain Boomerang's* "Space-Boomerang Trap" You'll thrill to the "Doomward Flight of the Flashes" as our hero is joined by his Earth-2 counterpart. And you'll find your heart racing as you read how *Flash* stops "Robberies by Magic", becomes "The One-Man Justice League", and takes a back seat as "Kid Flash Meets the Elongated Man".

It's a digest of classic super-speed stunts and fabulous fastness that you won't want to miss!

ASK THE ANSWER MAN

Q: How did *Superdog, Supercat, Supermonkey* and *Superhorse* get their powers?—Kevin Shelton. *A*: Krypto and Beppo are from Krypton and gain their powers from Earth's yellow sun and lesser gravity. Comet was a centaur given powers by Circe. And Streaky was an Earth-cat exposed to an element created by *Supergirl*.

Q: Does *Apache Chief* from the *Super Friends* TV show appear in any of your comics?—Ire Millstone. *A*: No.

Q: How much is *DYNAMIC CLASSICS* #1 worth?—Bob Holum. *A*: 15¢ in good condition.

Q: Can you reprint *FLASH* #105 for its original price of 10¢?—Dick Thompson. *A*: We can't print *anything* for 10¢ any more.

Q: Will *Black Canary* be teaming up with *Superman*?—Laura Thompson. *A*: Watch for them together in an upcoming issue of *DC COMICS PRESENTS*.

Q: How were *Cosmic Boy, Shrinking Violet, Wildfire* and *Shadow Lass* able to speak Kryptonese in *SUPERBOY & THE LEGION* #256?—Tony Potter. *A*: They must have learned it during their training.

Q: How about a mini-series about the *Green Lantern Corps*?—Lee Anderson. *A*: Watch for them in *GREEN LANTERN* #'s 130-132.

Q: When did the *Pied Piper* first appear?—Bruce Bender. *A*: In *FLASH* #106.

Q: Can the Earth-2 *Superman* fly or not? I've seen conflicting answers.—Joe Dantas. *A*: He can.

SUPERMAN AND ELONGATED MAN FACE ALIEN EPIDEMIC

(Metropolis)—Clark Kent sits down at his typewriter to do a hot story and the *Elongated Man*, deathly ill, slithers out of the machine. What is happening and can the Man of Steel learn the answers in time to stop "The Alien Epidemic"? Gerry Conway, Joe Staton and Frank Chiaramonte provide the startling answers when *DC COMICS PRESENTS* #21 goes on sale the week of February 11th.

HEMBECK
GOT THAT NEW DISCO RECORD I ASKED YOU TO MAKE?
I'LL PLAY IT FOR YOU, CHIEF!
THAT'S AWFUL!!
BUT I GOT PERRY WHITE JUST LIKE YOU SAID..
PERRY WHITE?!? YOU IDIOT--I SAID BARRY WHITE.!!
DON'T MAUL ME, CHIEF...

DIRECT CURRENTS

ON SALE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 11th

ALL-OUT WAR #5—The *Viking Commando* must protect "The War's Most Shocking Target" by Robert Kanigher and George Evans; the *Black Eagle* vows "The Enemy Must Not Die" by Kanigher, Dick Ayers and Romeo Tanghal; and *Force 3* must "Kill a Nazi Nightmare" by Kanigher and Jerry Grandenetti. Plus: "The Civilizing of M'Kala" by Archie Goodwin and Rico Rival and "Captain Drury's Sacred Ship" by Carl Wessler and John Calnan.

JUSTICE LEAGUE #178—*J'onn J'onzz* is back, battling *Despero* in a fight he can't possibly win in "The Chess-Master of Mars" by Gerry Conway, Dick Dillin and Frank McLaughlin.

SECRETS OF HAUNTED HOUSE #24—George Kashdan and Fred Carrillo get a "Second Chance to Die"; Laurie Sutton, Mike Nasser and Vince Colletta attend a "Nightfeast"; and Elliot Si Maggin and Rubeny invent "An Umbrella For All Seasons".

SUPERMAN #347—A nuclear power plant will melt down after it's sabotaged by "The Sleeper Out of Time". In this Gerry Conway/Jose Luis Garcia Lopez collaboration.

WONDER WOMAN #267—*Wonder Woman* battles the Cartel as *Animal Man* returns in "The Man Who Walked With Beasts" by Gerry Conway, Jose Delbo and Vince Colletta.

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